IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A protective shielding assembly for use in transferring or receiving fluid from a patient, the assembly comprising:

a housing having an outer wall and an intermediate wall extending between the outer wall of the housing, the intermediate wall partitioning the housing into a first section and a second section;

a first needle lumen extending from the first section to the second section of the housing through the intermediate wall[, the first needle having a first portion disposed in the first section and a second portion disposed in the second section];

a first connector disposed in the second section [about], the first connector configured to receive a first member such that the first member is in fluid communication with the first needle lumen [for connecting a first member to the first needle in the second section];

a second needle lumen [disposed at least partially in the first section of the housing and] extending from the first section through the outer wall of the housing, the second needle lumen terminating in a needle-less fluid port, the fluid port for fluid connection to a second member;

wherein at least one of the first and second needle lumens are in fluid communication with a needle portion, including a needle tip; and

a removable guide liner having a body including a first end, an opposing second end, and an outer wall complementary to the [outer] inner wall of the housing so that the removable guide liner is intimately receiving within the first section of the housing, the body having a guide slot formed therein and extending from the first end to an end wall proximate the second end, the end wall including an opening formed therein for receiving [the first portion of the first needle and a

portion of the second] said needle tip so that [the first] said received needle tip [and the second needle extend] extends into the guide slot, the guide slot receiving a third member which is fully connected to [the first and second] said needle tip so that a fluid transfer may occur between the third member and at least one of the first and second [members] needle lumens where [the first and second needles are] said received needle tip is fully encased within the housing so as to protect the user from contact therewith.

2. (Original) The protective shielding assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein the first member is selected from the group consisting of a sealed test tube, a syringe, and a collection device.

3. (Currently Amended) The protective shielding assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein the first member has a second connector which mates with the first connector to securely retain the second member in the second section and form fluid communicating between the first member and the first needle lumen.

4. (Currently Amended) The protective shielding assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein the third member comprises a central line assembly including:

an elongated body having a first end and a second end with a channel extending therethrough from the first end to the second end, the first end having a locking flange for locking the central line assembly to the guide liner and the housing, the second end being a capped end for selectively receiving [the first portion of the first needle and the second] said needle tip, and

a central line connected to the first end of the body so that the central line is in fluid communication with the first and second [needles] needle lumens.

5. (Original) The protective shielding assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein the housing comprises a substantially tubular member including a first annular flange at a first end thereof and a second annular flange at a second end thereof.

6. (Original) The protective shielding assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein the removable guide liner comprises a substantially tubular member having an annular guide liner flange at the first end.

7. (Original) The protective shielding assembly as set forth in claim 4, wherein the capped end comprises a self-sealing membrane.

8. (Original) The protective shielding assembly as set forth in claim 4, wherein the central line assembly includes a third connector disposed at the first end of the elongated body, the third connector mating with a complementary fourth connector provided at one end of the central line, wherein the mating between the third and fourth connector retains the central line to the elongated body and provided fluid communication between the central line and the channel.

9. (Original) The protective shielding assembly as set forth in claim 4, wherein the central line is selected from the group consisting of a central venous line, a catheter, and a shunt.

10. (Original) The protective shielding assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein the fluid transferred is selected from the group consisting of blood, cerebral-spinal fluid, pleural fluid, synovial fluid, peritoneal dialysate, amniotic fluid, and liquid medication.

11. (Original) The protective shielding assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein the second member comprises a syringe.

12. (Original) The protective shielding assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein the third member is selected from the group consisting of a sealed test tube and a syringe.

13. (Currently Amended) A protective shielding assembly for use in transferring or receiving fluid from a patient, the assembly comprising:

a housing having an outer wall and an intermediate wall extending between the outer wall of the housing, the intermediate wall partitioning the housing into a first section and a second section, comprises a closed collection receptacle;

a first needle lumen extending from the first section to the second section of the housing through the intermediate wall[, the first needle having a first portion disposed in the first section and a second portion disposed in the closed collection receptacle];

a second neelde lumen [disposed at least partially in the first section of the housing and] extending from the first section through the outer wall of the housing, the second needle lumen terminating in a needle-less fluid port, the fluid port for fluid connection to a first member;

wherein at least one of the first and second needle lumens is in fluid communication with a needle portion, including a needle tip; and

a removable guide liner having a body including a first end, an opposing second end, and an outer wall complementary to the [outer] inner wall of the housing so that the removable guide liner is intimately received within the first section of the housing, the body having a guide slot formed therein and extending from the first end to an end wall proximate the second end, the end wall including an opening formed therein [for], the opening receiving [the first portion of the first needle and a portion of the second] said needle tip so that [the first portion and the second] said needle tip [extend] extends into the guide slot, the guide slot receiving a third member which is fluidly connected to the first and second [needles] needle lumens so that a fluid transfer may occur between the second member and at least one of the closed collection receptacle and first member where [the first and second needles are] said received needle tip is fully encased within the housing so as to protect the user from contact therewith.

14. (Original) The protective shielding assembly as set forth in claim 13, wherein the closed collection receptacle comprises a sealed test tube.